

# Report from the 2011 National Fusion Center Conference

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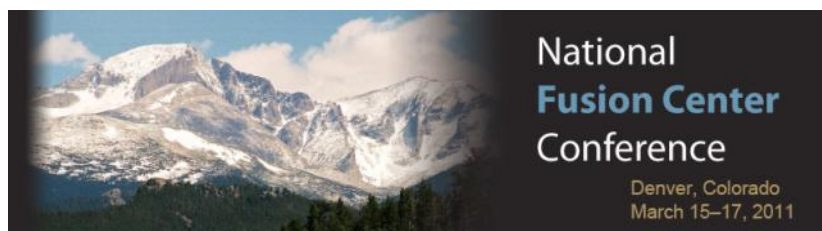
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**March 24, 2011**

## ***Information Sharing Issues Remain Top Priority for Attendees***

The fifth annual National Fusion Center Conference convened in Denver, CO, last week. The event brought together more than 1,000 fusion center directors, homeland security advisors, and law enforcement and intelligence partners who support the nation's 72 state and major urban area fusion centers. The conference provides a unique opportunity for fusion center personnel to exchange best practices, build stronger partnerships and enhance fusion centers' critical operational capabilities to become centers of analytic excellence.



## **Information Sharing a Key Issue**

As in years past, effective information sharing was a key issue discussed at the fusion center conference. Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Janet Napolitano addressed the conference during a plenary session, highlighting the deployment of 70 experienced DHS intelligence officers to work side by side with federal, state and local fusion center personnel nationwide to assess threats and share information. ([Media Advisory: Napolitano to Speak at Fusion Center Conference](#)) <sup>[3]</sup>

## **Suspicious Activity Reporting**

Napolitano also discussed the importance of fusion centers to initiatives such as the [Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting \(SAR\) Initiative](#) <sup>[4]</sup>—an administration effort to train state and local law enforcement to recognize behaviors and indicators related to terrorism, crime and other threats; standardize how those observations are documented and analyzed; and expand and enhance the sharing of those reports with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and DHS.

## **Awards**

After her keynote remarks at the conference, Secretary Napolitano presented this year's awards, including:

- **Fusion Center of the Year ? [Tennessee Fusion Center \(TFC\)](#):** <sup>[5]</sup> The TFC was recognized for its progress in analyzing and sharing terrorism and criminal information among federal, state, and

local law enforcement agencies across Tennessee at both the tactical and strategic levels. Its collaborative efforts and partnerships to leverage terrorism, crime, critical infrastructure/key resources, and Suspicious Activity Reporting information have strengthened the fusion process across the state.

- **Fusion Center Federal Representative of the Year ? John Sullivan of the FBI and Mohamed Telab of DHS, both assigned to the New Jersey Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC):** Sullivan and Telab were commended for their collaborative work in support of the missions of their respective agencies as well as the ROIC. Both demonstrated commitment to cooperation and willingness to share information to support New Jersey's homeland security efforts. These efforts have enabled the ROIC to mature its critical operational capabilities.
- **State/Local Fusion Center Representative of the Year ? Oxana Munson, Tennessee Fusion Center (TFC):** Munson was recognized for her support to building the analytic capabilities of the TFC. She also strengthened collaboration with partners at all levels of government to develop joint analytic products.

## Conference Opportunities

Conference attendees had the opportunity to attend a diverse set of breakout sessions featuring experts discussing various leadership, analytical and technology issues facing fusion centers today. In addition, attendees could visit the booths and hands-on labs set up by ?centers of excellence,? or programs and initiatives that help fusion centers achieve their all-hazards missions.

Learn more about fusion centers [here](#) [6].

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